

# **WESTCHESTER LAWMAKERS RECOVER \$5-6 MILLION IN SAVINGS FROM COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDER REVIEW**

**(White Plains, NY) ---** Faced with a surging health care costs and the need to trim down spending within the County government, Westchester County lawmakers learned from POMCO, current employee health insurance provider for the County, that health insurance claims for 2010 is \$6 million under budget. The County is self-funded so these savings go directly to fund-balance. This comprehensive review was proposed by the Board's Democratic majority as a way to save millions of dollars for taxpayers beginning January 1, 2011. "The approach to have a Special Committee carefully deliberate the facts and analyze results prior to making a modification to another provider has proved effective," said Board Chairman Ken Jenkins (D-Yonkers). "For every dollar that can be saved through efficient management and internal cost-cutting, a vital community service, such as child care, can be saved."

Through the work of the Board's Special Committee on Health Insurance Savings, co-chaired by Board Vice-Chairman Lyndon D. Williams (D-Mount Vernon) and Board Majority Whip Judith Myers (D-Larchmont), Legislators interviewed health insurance professionals and key industry experts to assess and develop a long-term health benefit plan that works best for Westchester County and provide maximum savings to taxpayers. "It was necessary to conduct this comprehensive review that would be geared towards facilitating the ultimate goal of reforming Westchester County's employee health insurance plan," said Legislator Myers. "When the Board passed landmark bipartisan county employee benefits reform package this year, our initial proposal was to serve as an interim plan as the committee continued to pursue permanent long-term savings by conducting an across-the-board analysis of all existing plans that would save Westchester taxpayers millions of dollars."

“These savings indicate the approach that the subcommittee has taken from the beginning of our analysis,” said Vice-Chairman Williams. “That to properly reform health insurance, we must look at both sides of the coin – the employee contribution side and the overall cost of providing benefits. The Administration is only focused on looking at the contribution side, which provided \$1.2 million dollars in savings, however our total review approach has saved taxpayers as much as \$8.2 million dollars.”

*Additional news available at [www.westchesterlegislators.com/mediacenter](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com/mediacenter)*

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